

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An ophthalmologic photocoagulator comprising:

a treatment laser oscillator for oscillating a treatment laser beam for conducting treatment by photocoagulation on a diseased part of an eye to be examined ~~by photocoagulation~~;

a sighting laser oscillator for oscillating a sighting laser beam for conducting sighting on the diseased part of the eye to be examined which is to be irradiated with the treatment laser beam, ~~wherein the photocoagulator comprises further:~~

a combining means for combining an optical path of the treatment laser beam with an optical path of the sighting laser beam by polarization coupling and the treatment laser oscillator and the sighting laser oscillator ~~are the oscillators oscillating the similar~~ oscillate laser beams having similar colors to each other;

a first light receiving means for receiving a part of the treatment laser beam to monitor whether or not the treatment laser oscillator oscillates at a first predetermined output; and

a second light receiving means for receiving a part of the sighting laser beam to monitor whether or not the sighting laser oscillator oscillates at a second predetermined output.

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (currently amended): An ophthalmologic photocoagulation method, wherein a treatment laser beam is irradiated from a treatment laser beam oscillator and a sighting laser beam is irradiated from a sighting laser beam oscillator, comprising the steps of:

oscillating a treatment laser beam from the treatment laser beam oscillator;

simultaneously oscillating a sighting laser beam from the sighting laser beam oscillator,

~~which have similar colors each other~~ has a color similar to that of the treatment laser beam;

[[and]]

combining an optical path of the treatment laser beam and an optical path of the sighting laser beam by polarization coupling;

detecting a part of the treatment laser beam to monitor whether or not the treatment laser beam oscillator oscillates at a first predetermined output; and

detecting a part of the sighting laser beam to monitor whether or not the sighting laser beam oscillator oscillates at a second predetermined output.

Claim 4 (currently amended): An ophthalmologic photocoagulation method according to claim 3, wherein a difference between a wavelength of the treatment laser beam oscillating from the treatment laser oscillator and a wavelength of the sighting laser beam oscillating from the sighting laser oscillator is equal to or ~~smaller~~ less than 30 nm.

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-4 are pending in this application, all of which have been amended. Claim 2 has been canceled. No new claims have been added.

The Examiner has requested that Fig. 3 be designated as "Prior Art". A corrected print of Fig. 3 is attached hereto.

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure and claims 1 and 3 for various informalities.

Accordingly, a substitute specification correcting various grammatical, idiomatic and spelling errors is attached hereto and claims 1 and 3 have been amended to correct the noted informalities. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,312,423 to Ota et. (hereinafter "**Ota et al.**").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Ota et al. discloses a laser treatment apparatus in which a treatment laser beam emitted from a laser source 10 is coaxially aligned to an aiming beam emitted from an aiming light source 18 by a beam splitter 20. The coaxial beams are delivered to a patient's eye E through a light delivery optical system, when a controller 60 controls an inclination angle of a filter 57 to change its spectral characteristics such that the filter cuts off the treatment laser beam during the treatment laser irradiation, while allows to the aiming beam to pass during the observation of the patient's eye.

Column 3, lines 57-58 disclose that the laser of the aiming beam “emits a green light like the treatment light.”

Column 3, lines 43-45 discloses that “part of the treatment beam is reflected by the beam splitter 11 and enters an output sensor 13 through a diffusing plate.”

Ota et al. fails to disclose that a part of the sighting laser beam is used to monitor whether or not the sighting laser oscillator oscillates at a second predicted output level, as in the present invention.

Accordingly, claim 2 has been canceled and its limitations added to claim 1 while the above mentioned limitations directed to the second sensor for detecting the output of the sighting laser beam have been added to claims 1 and 3.

Thus, the 35 USC §102(e) rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1 and 3-4, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants’ undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Replacement Sheets of Drawing (Figs. 1-3)
Substitute Abstract of the Disclosure
Marked-Up Specification
Substitute Specification